Piston compressor of the horizontal type

Patent number:

DE69511438T

Publication date:

2000-02-24

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Classification:

- international:

F04B39/00; F16J1/02; F04B53/00; F16C39/04;

F16C32/06

- european:

F04B39/00; F04B39/00B; F04B39/00B6; F16C32/06C4;

F16C39/04; F16J1/02

Application number: DE19956011438T 19951107

Priority number(s): NL19940001878 19941110; WO1995NL00379

19951107

Also published as:

WO9615369 (A1) EP0839280 (A1)

US6016738 (A1) FI971989 (A) EP0839280 (B1)

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Abstract not available for DE69511438T Abstract of corresponding document: US6016738

PCT No. PCT/NL95/00379 Sec. 371 Date Aug. 27, 1997 Sec. 102(e) Date Aug. 27, 1997 PCT Filed Nov. 7, 1995 PCT Pub. No. WO96/15369 PCT Pub. Date May 23, 1996 Piston compressor for compressing gas, comprising a frame with at least one cylinder which has an essentially horizontal axis, a piston which is reciprocable in the cylinder, a piston rod which at one end thereof is fixed to the piston, while the other end thereof is coupled to a crosshead which is guided in the frame and is reciprocable by a drive mechanism, and bearing means which support the piston/piston rod unit, formed by the piston and the piston rod connected thereto, relative to the frame. The bearing means comprise: a source which continuously delivers a gas under pressure, conduit means which are connected to the source and open out at at least one outflow opening for supplying the gas coming from the source to a position between the piston and the cylinder, the position of the at least one outflow opening and the pressure of the gas supplied from the source being such that gas supplied to a position between the piston and the cylinder constantly exerts an upward pressure on the piston/piston rod unit.

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